

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, this would merely strike the language which would not allow the funds to be lapsed. As Senator Warner mentioned, this is a precedent that many of us have concerns about and it is on page 6 of LB 1089, lines 23 through 26, and it is the new language says. "The money in the fund shall not be subject to any fiscal year limitation or any lapse provision of the unexpended balance at the end of any fiscal year. Now I don't think this is the sort of a thing that we should...if we should do it on consent calendar, we ought to know what we are doing at least because if we can't lapse funds from this fund then what logic do we have to lapse funds from any fund. This is a new system, and I guess the only other agency or department that does that is this several million dollars we have in the veterans fund which isn't lapsed and we use the interest. But if departments and all sorts of agencies in the state are going to be able to keep their funds over and live off the interest, let's talk about it a little bit. Let's not just slip it through on consent calendar. Maybe that is the policy we want to adopt. Maybe there should be no lapsed funds because then...you know there is a problem with this lapsed fund business because agencies get down toward the end of the year and they say, well, if we don't spend this money, we are going to lose it, it is going to be lapsed. So they start buying typewriters and every other sort of piece of equipment that they need, or might need, or think they might need so that there is not as much money left there to lapse. But this is a policy decision that we are talking about now and I ask you to think about it. Do we want to change this policy right now in this little bill? Or should we strike this language from the bill, then come back and decide whether or not we want to work on the system we have now where funds can be lapsed and are lapsed after the deliberations of the Appropriations Committee. I would ask that we just pass this amendment which would strike that lapsed fund part of it. Let them reduce the fees to make up for the part that they are not going to spend and reduce the fees and then they won't have any lapsed funds to worry about. I ask that the amendment